It has been reported by thge Government of NCT of Delhi that at present all the posts of presiding officers of Labour Court/Industrial Tribunals have been filled up appointing officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Service. The Labour and Employment Department of Government of NCT of Delhi thereafter formulated the proposals for the creation of various categories of posts and other infrastructure as recommended by the aforesaid committee and incorporated the same in the Annual Plan of the Department for the year 1998-99.

In has further been reported that separately action also been undertaken to review the pendency of cases before the conciliation officers and the Department has also set a target to bring down the period of conciliation to three months.

Child Labour In Gujarat

1280. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labour in Gujarat is around 13 to 15 lakhs and the budget allocation made for child labour projects being implemented by the Union and State Government is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) As per 1991 census, the total number of working children in the State of Gujarat is 523, 585. Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Project, 76 projects have been sanctioned so far including two projects for the district of Surat and Panchmahal in the State of Gujrat. These projects are fully funded by the Central Government through the child labour project societies at the district level. There is no State-wise budget allocation under the scheme. It has been decided that the question of expanding the coverage under National Child Labour Projects would be considered only after the revision of the existing scheme for which necessary action has already been initiated.

Planning and Implementation of New Labour Policies

1281. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to seek the services of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in planning and implementation of new labour policies;

(b) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to recast/modify/amend the existing labour laws in the wake of liberalisation and globalisation process to facilitate accelerated growth of industry;

(c) what is the present status of the proposal initiated in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are considering setting up of Experts Committee to study the problem in-depth for evolving desirable changes in various laws?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) International Labour Organisation had sent a Project proposal to the Ministry of Labour in Feb., 1998 to assist the Govt. of India in reviewing the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) to (d) Labour laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance, hence the need for review of labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour